



## **SARSAS (Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead) Inc**

**Mission Statement:** to return salmon and steelhead to the entire length of the Auburn Ravine

October 5, 2011

Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Fifth Draft Delta Plan

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Members of the Council:

Hello Phil ...you were our Student Body President when I was at Sac State in the early '60's. Lowell Jarvis, Chairman of Placer County Water Agency, included in his letter to you and the Delta Council these words:

"The Plan does not recognize the potential for increasing salmonids by working with local, upstream salmon restoration efforts such as those on Butte Creek or the Auburn Ravine.

The Plan neglects to mention the key linkage between water supply development and growth inducing impacts. After the passage of SB 610 (2001), developers are required to prove they have a dedicated source of water. The coequal goal of water supply reliability will help to satisfy the legal requirements of SB 610.

The Plan has very few project details or associated costs."

Mr. Jarvis' words have much bearing on my organization which is Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead (SARSAS, Inc.), an all-volunteer 501C3 with an eleven-member Board of Directors, all selected for their particular expertise in areas of salmon sciences. SARSAS' goal is to collaboratively work with all individuals, organizations and agencies to return salmon and steelhead to the entire 33 mile length of the Auburn Ravine which originates in Auburn and empties into the Sacramento River at Verona with salmon spawning in two parks in Lincoln and two parks in Auburn.

Progress on the Auburn Ravine has been incredible. Nevada Irrigation District will install a fish ladder on its Gauging Station in Lincoln September/October of 2011 and plans to retrofit the Hemphill Dam, a mile upstream from Lincoln next year.

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Last year salmon swam some twenty miles up the Auburn Ravine to the city of Lincoln. Next year salmon will be able to reach Gold Hill Road, twenty-five miles upstream, with only about eight miles left to reach the SARSAS goal of returning anadromy to the entire thirty-three mile length of Auburn Ravine, with Lincoln and Auburn joining the ranks of California cities with salmon spawning in their centers.



Gold Hill Diversion Dam with Canal – largest Barrier on Auburn Ravine

People collaborating can achieve great progress.

As Lowell Jarvis indicates in the current Delta Plan and I also have noticed, a complete omission of any attempt to open any one of the 738 tributaries of the two great rivers in California for salmon spawning flaws the Delta Plan. With these tributaries opened to fish passage, the continued existence of California salmon is assured. In order for fish to survive and water users to get their water, these tributaries must be opened and provisions for opening them must be included in the Delta Plan, which will then be a collaborative, workable Plan.

Millions have been spent on the Delta with little progress on helping salmon. Collaboration is difficult with water users influencing agencies to the detriment of salmon. SARSAS, an all-volunteer non-profit, has worked collaboratively with agencies and water companies to return salmon to the Auburn Ravine, just one of 738 tributaries to the two great California rivers.

I would be delighted to meet and talk with you about how to include saving California salmon in the Delta Plan and how to include funding for organizations like SARSAS working to open the tributaries for salmon spawning to keep them from going extinct.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack L. Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" and last name "Sanchez" clearly legible.

Jack L. Sanchez

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Lincoln Gauging Station Currently Having a Fish Ladder Installed by Nevada Irrigation District



Hemphill Dam with Flashboard Dam Removed

South Sutter Water District is installing a fish screen on Pleasant Grove Canal which will prevent up to 90% of salmon returning to the Pacific from dying in Ag fields.



Pleasant Grove Canal on Auburn Ravine to be Fish Screened

The City of Auburn has diligently upgraded its WWTP to RWB code, and SARSAS is partners with the City of Lincoln, Placer Nature Center, Dry Creek Conservancy, Lincoln Open Space Committee and the California Conservation Corps in working to remove invasive plants and to re-vegetate Auburn Ravine stream banks with native plants within the city. The project is named the Auburn Ravine Improvement Project. SARSAS has been involved in highly efficient restoration projects on Auburn Ravine.